

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 26, 37, 38, 40 and 45 are now pending in the application, with Claims 16, 37 and 45 being independent. Claims 13-15, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 39 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 16, 19, 37 and 40 have been amended and Claim 45 has been added herein.

The Office Action suggests that the term "recording means" in Claim 26 may be unclear and the claim was objected to for that reason. It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand the meaning of the term "recording means." Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of this objection, independent Claim 16, on which Claim 26 depends, has been amended to further define the recording means. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 26 are requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 24-28, 39 and 40 recite allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims. The remaining claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, Applicant has reworded independent Claim 16 to include the features of Claim 18 and independent Claim 37 to include the features of Claim 39. In addition, newly-presented independent Claim 45 also includes the features of forming an image on a recording medium by discharging ink

on the recording medium, but, inter alia, recites a scale member rather than a conveyance angle detection pattern writing member. Accordingly, independent Claims 16, 37 and 45 are believed to be patentable over the citations of record and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 16, 37 and 45. Dependent Claims 17, 19, 20, 23, 26, 38 and 40 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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